

Strange and Wonderful

N^o: 35:

NEWE

FROM

Bridewell

OF A

Converted Whore :

OR, AN

Example to all Night-Walkers; other-
wise called, **The Ladies of Bridewell.**

Being, A True Relation of a young Beautiful Woman,
who was wonn by the Pious Perswasions of a Civill Stranger,
from her Wanton and Wicked Course of Life; With an Ac-
count, How she became Mistriss of all kind of Wordly Feli-
cities, as the Reward of her Vertue, and her high Exemplary
Gratitude to the Gentleman, that was (under God) the Oc-
casion of her *Conversion*.

Published for the Encouragement of Vertue.

Licensed: Roger L'Estrange. 22: Nov: 1676

London, Printed for Rowland Reynolds, next Arundel-Gate, o-
ver against St. Clement's Church in the Strand, 1677.



Strange & Wonderful News from *Bridewell* of a Converted Whore, &c.



Civil Gentleman not long since having been walking alone in the Fields, Contemplating with himself; and returning back (not the same way he went out, but through another part of the Suburbs, to which he was a meer stranger; and finding himself A-thirst), he stepped into the first House that offered it self; and calling for a Cup of Beer, (leaving himself in the first Room next the Street) he had not well wiped the Sweat from his Face with his Handkerchief, but two or three young Wenches came (skittishly) in and out the Room; who seeing him a Man of Fashion, and therefore likely to be of Means, they thought to make of him some Booty, being (it seems) set on by the Grandam of the House; for, as it proved, it was a Common *Bawdy-House*. The Youngest, and handsomest, among the rest, was put upon him;

who entreated him not to be seen below, where every Porter, Carr-man, and Common-Fellow, came to Drink; but to take a more retired Room: The Gentleman suspecting the place to be no better than it should be, and being willing to see some Fashions, took her gentle proffer, and went up Stairs; where they two being alone, and a Bed in the Room (Beer being brought up), she offered him more than Common Courtesie; which he apprehending, asked her, If she did not use such Provocations to incite him to Lust? which she plainly confessed: And he told her, He accepted of her Kindness, onely he desired a darker Room, which she told him she would; and after she had shewed him several Rooms, at length she brought him into the Cellar: being there, he asked if no Body could observe or be sensible of their Amours? To which she replied, The Privacy, the Darkeness, and the Retiredness of the Place, did shut out all Observers: But true Vertue, and Honesty, urged the Gentleman to tell her, That no Place could be so dark, and secure, but that God would observe their closest Contrivances, though Man could not: To which he added, Surely we are Monsters of Nature; and the more so, because we appear in the Eye of the World to be Christians, that we dare act such black Crimes in the sight of God; of which we are ashamed, and blush to Act in the sight of Man, and in the face of the Sun. The young Woman answered with disdain, That surely she had procured a Preacher instead of a Gallant.

I beseech you, sayes the Gentleman (with a great deal of Zeal) do not deceive your self; but consider
(whilst

(whilst you are not yet past all hopes of being reclaimed out of this most sinful, and lude Course of Life), that you have a Soul to preserve, as well as a Body, and that this way, wherein you now live, will destroy both.

I need not tell you, how many have been brought to their Graves, occasioned by the foul Diseases they have Contracted in the Fruition of their Lusts; and that, without very great Repentance, the Soul must (unavoidably) for ever burn in Hell Fire: And therefore, if you have any kindness either for Soul, or Body, your Wellfare in this, or in another World, you must speedily leave this most hateful manner of Living; which will be a Joy to God, and his Angels in Heaven, as well as to all those that truly love you on Earth.

And using many such like Godly Exhortations, to let her see the Wickedness of her Life, he (at length) drew Tears from her Eyes: And being as it were awaked out of the deep Sleep of her sins, she burst forth into these Expressions; Sir, Your Pious Exhortations hath wrought that upon my Soul, which neither Shame, nor Punishment could do.

He Rejoycing that so much Good was wrought upon her, asked her, If she was willing to leave this course of Life for a better? To which she did answer, That she did fully resolve so to do; and that she would willingly endure and undergo any Hardship, and labour in a Service, rather than offend God, and Damne her Soul, by continuing in that wicked Way, and Place she was then in.

The Gentleman then told her, He had a Friend that he would wish her to, that lived in a Good and Religious way; and that he doubted not, but that she should be entertained as a Servant: Withall telling her, He would, in a few Dayes, send for her: And giving her a great charge to leave the filthy Rags behind, and he would send her New Cloathes; and Money, if she owed any, that she might come clear away from so Wicked a House; which was done accordingly.

She being now settled in this Religious Family, where her Master and Mistress looked upon their new Servant with no little satisfaction; for the Diligence she used to content them in all things, as well as the Love she bore to their Children. It pleased God, her Mistress fell sick; and on a day she told her Husband, That, if she dyed, she thought (for the Childrens sake) it would be the best for him to Marry again: Withall, she told him, He had a plentiful Estate; and a good Woman, though she had not Monies, would be a Portion sufficient: She also Recommended to him her Maid; telling him, That a better Servant never came into a House, and so (consequently) would make a good Wife. The Mistress dying, these Words took Impression on the mind of her Master: And after some convenient time past, made a Motion to his Maid, which she accepting of; and, in a little time, they were accordingly Married.

It pleased God, that her Master, whom she was newly Married to, fell sick, and dyed: Also, he makes her full Executrix.

Now,

Now, just as she followed the Herse to the Church, she espyed this Gentleman, that had been (next under God) the cause of her Conversion; and whispering a Servant in the Ear, bid him to fall into Discourse with him, and inquire the Place of his abode; which was done accordingly.

Now, you must know, That this Gentleman had great Adventures at Sea, and many Misfortunes thereupon; so that, Poverty came upon him, as it appeared afterwards, upon a further inquiry.

To be short, Within a few dayes after, she sent him one hundred Pound to buy him Cloathes, and other Necessaries: And withall, He was invited such a Day, to such a Place, to come and Dine with the Party that had sent him the Money; For, he was not to know the Reason of it, till afterwards; as it should be thought convenient.

Being thus Apparelled, and Money in his Pocket, he comes exactly to the Place appointed; where he met with several Gentleman, that had been also invited by this newly Rich Widdow; For, these were her new Suitors, she having many, being Rich also; and all this, ere her Husband was scarce cold. And this day, she told them in a Frolick, she would choose her a Husbbnd; looking, and also discoursing very slightly of the afore-mentioned Gentleman, which made good Sport for the rest of the other Gentleman-Suitors; every one thinking himself the Person designed for so great a Fortune, as this Widdow had, save this Gentleman only. Dinner being ended, she drank a Health to this Gentleman (who was the Sport of the Company before), and declared to him, That, that day, she

She chose him for her Husband; if ever she did marry, he should be the Man: And withall, Conducted him to her late Husband's Chaire, which stood empty at the upper-end of the Table. She also bid him drink a Health upon the same, to the rest of the invited Guests, which he did accordingly: This Choyce working an alteration on the Spirits, as well as on the Countenance, of the rest of the Suitors, who before had made sport with this Gentleman.

Thus the Close proved better than the Beginning; and the Banquet of Sweet-Meats made amends for the Harsh Feast: They were there Contracted, the Suitors Witnesses, and soon after Married. And thus his Vertue, and her Conversion, had one joynt Reward.

FINIS.
